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Ch/G

24 April 1957

VIA :Chief, D/GG

Chief, GG/F

GG/F Comments on "Regional Distribution of Economic Activity in Communist China" (ORR Project 10.831)

25X1A9a

1. In general, GG/F feels that the incorporation of pertinent information on the regional economic geography of China and the subsequent revision of the report have resulted in a product considerably superior in content and organization to the original treatment accorded this topic in Chapter V of the ORR contribution to NIE 13-57. As a result of working-level coordination between [redacted] of A/F and [redacted] of this 25X1A9a Branch, we feel that the report in its present form substantially eliminates GG/F's objections to ERA's original treatment of the subject except for the following specific comments:

a. Page 2, line 8 and page 26, paragraph C: "north-south geographic projection of economic regions" does not convey a clear-cut conception of the geographic relationships involved. Perhaps a clearer restatement of line 8, page 2, would be: "Within the latitudinal alignment of China's economic regions from north to south, more than..." The initial sentence in paragraph C, page 26, might be reworded as follows:

"Whereas China's coastal and inland areas are essentially aligned longitudinally from east to west, the Chinese Communist economic regions substantially reflect the latitudinal relationship of China's plains, mountains and rivers."

b. Page 5: Since the 10 "economic regions" consist of groupings of entire provinces, the "regions" are most closely integrated with the formal administrative set-up. Methodologically, "economic, geographic and cultural regions" should be defined by a concordance of those phenomena within the regional boundaries. The 10 "economic regions" do not do that. It is therefore suggested that the provincial basis of the regions be explicitly stated. For example, page 5, line 14 might read: "Although the regions constituting this system are only groupings of provinces, they are reasonably well-integrated from the standpoint..."

c. Page 8, line 11: Statement is not entirely true. The Jehol Mountains and the southern two-thirds of the Greater Khingan Mountains are chiefly grass-covered or barren. "Dense woods" are

*Original forwarded
to CH/G on 29 April 1957.
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located principally to the north and northeast of the Manchurian Plain. In the south, of course, is the Gulf of Liactung.

2. It is hoped that the initial effort represented by the present report will be followed by equally useful attempts to explore, delimit, and analyze regionalism in Communist China, with particular emphasis on the direction and extent of intra-regional industrial concentration or dispersal as well as inter-regional economic relationships.

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ORR:GG/F: [REDACTED] bfr:Ext. 529 [REDACTED]

Attachment:

ERA Draft of 10.831

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1 - Chief, D/CC

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

No attachments